

Michigan Hall of Justice

The Michigan Hall of Justice, dedicated October 8, 2002, is the first permanent home for the judicial branch of government in the state's history. Built of limestone and capped by a glass dome, the six-story Hall of Justice stands at the west end of the capitol mall. Facing the State Capitol, it stands independent yet in relation to the location of the executive and legislative branches of government, symbolic of how our government works.



Interesting Facts

- 6 stories.
- 10 elevators.
- 16-foot skylight dome.
- 224 windows.
- 1,200 interior doors.
- 2,930 tons of steel.
- 14,000 pieces of limestone.
- 16,000 cubic yards of concrete.
- 25,000 visitors per year.
- 280,000 square feet.

Four words– freedom, truth, equality and justice– are etched in marble at the entrance of the Hall of Justice. These concepts, the foundations of our constitution, invite reflection by all who enter.



All photos © Justin Maconochie Photography

Learning Center

Located on the first floor, the Learning Center is a 3,800-square-foot gallery designed to educate the public about the role of the Michigan court system in everyday life. The gallery is filled with activities designed for visitors from the fourth grade to adult.

Walk-in visitors are welcome. Docent-led tours are available for groups of eight or more. For reservations, call 517-373-7229.

Public Restrooms

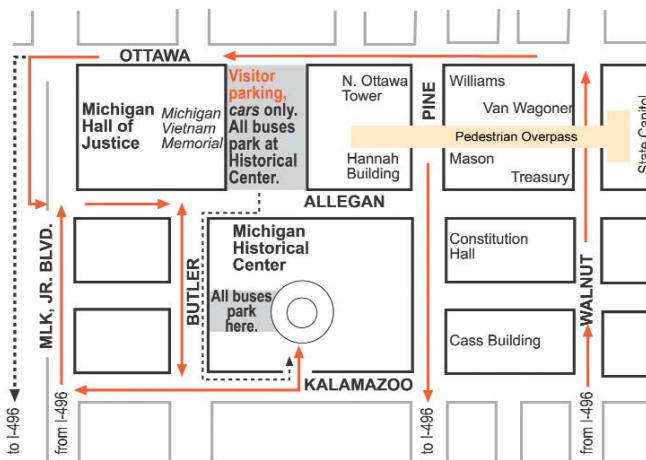
On the first floor, public restrooms are located inside Learning Center, at the end of the south wing near the Café, and at the north end of the Conference Center. On all other floors, restrooms are located across the rotunda from the public elevators.

Café

A small café is located on the first floor at the end of the south wing.

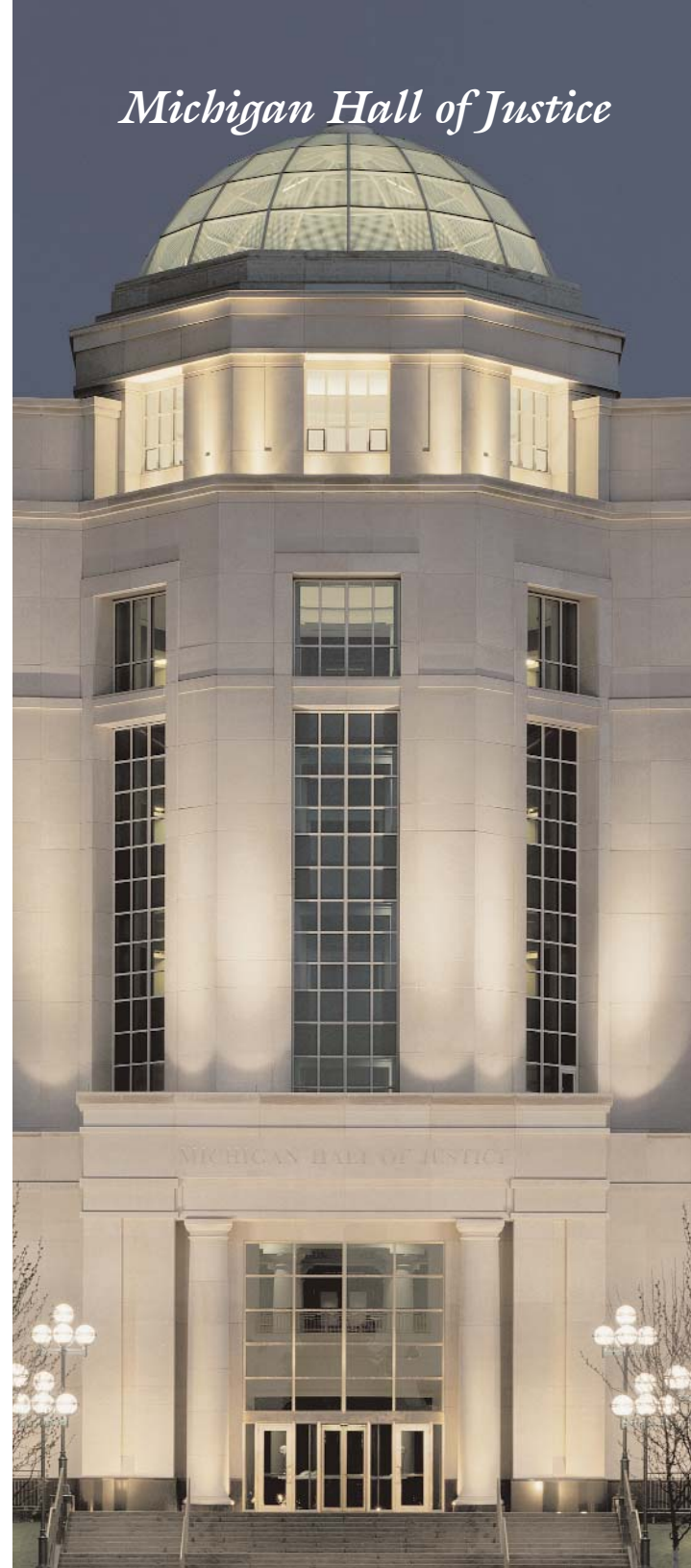
Location

The Michigan Hall of Justice is located at the corner of Allegan Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, three blocks west of the State Capitol and north of the Michigan Historical Center. Visitor parking is available off Allegan Street.



Michigan Hall of Justice
925 West Ottawa Street
PO Box 30205
Lansing, MI 48909
Website: courts.michigan.gov

Michigan Hall of Justice





Courtrooms

The Hall of Justice houses two appellate court courtrooms. The Supreme Court courtroom is located on the sixth floor, and the Court of Appeals courtroom is on the second floor. Both courtrooms are open to the public when court is in session and can be reached by public elevators located north of the rotunda.

About the Michigan Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals—created by the Constitution of 1963, Article VI, Section 1—is a high-volume intermediate appellate court. Although divided into four districts for election purposes, the Court's twenty-eight judges sit in panels of three and rotate with equal frequency with each of the other judges and among the three courtroom



Court of Appeals courtroom

locations (Detroit, Lansing, and Grand Rapids). In most cases, appeals to the Court are by right; that is, the Court must hear and decide the appeals. A decision of any panel of judges is controlling statewide and is reviewable by the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Fourth District (Lansing) Court of Appeals courtroom is designed to be accessible and user-friendly to citizen litigants, attorneys, and judges. There are two conference rooms off the entryway for use by people appearing for oral argument. The attorney tables in the courtroom are equipped with power for laptop use, and the podium height can be adjusted for comfort level and wheelchair access. The bench, which can seat either three or seven judges, is also equipped with power for laptops, and other useful features provide the judges with access to important information at the touch of a button.

Interesting Facts

- Established by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.
- Decisions determined by the majority of a 3-judge panel.
- 28 judges, elected to 6-year terms.
- Total of 7,708 new filings in 2003.
- In most cases, the Court must hear and decide appeals.
- Chief Judge appointed by the Supreme Court to a 2-year term.

About the Michigan Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is Michigan's highest court. The Court hears cases at its discretion and receives over 2,000 "applications for leave to appeal" per year. Each justice reviews every case to determine whether leave should be granted. Less than 100 cases are granted leave per year.

Cases accepted for oral argument may be decided by an order, with or without an opinion, a written explanation of the decision. These orders may affirm or reverse the



Michigan Supreme Court courtroom

Michigan Court of Appeals, remand a case to the trial court, or adopt a correct Court of Appeals opinion.

The Court hears oral arguments October–May of each term. Decisions are released throughout the term (August 1–July 31), following oral arguments.

The Supreme Court courtroom is located on the highest floor of the Hall of Justice, symbolic of the position of the Court within the state system. The decor, furnishings, and mahogany bench reflect the feel of the 1872 courtroom that housed the Supreme Court for nearly a century in the Capitol. Unlike typical American courtrooms, the Supreme Court courtroom is round. Reminiscent of a Native American sentencing circle in which young and old have a voice, it reminds visitors of Michigan's first lawgivers.

Interesting Facts

- Established by the Michigan Constitution of 1835.
- Decisions determined by a majority of the entire Court.
- 7 Justices, elected to 8-year terms.
- Chief Justice elected to a 2-year term by members of the Supreme Court.
- Responsible for administrative supervision of all state courts.